

allowed to depart with their arms and belongings while their commander who was apparently a Greek, entered the imperial service.¹

So vanished the ephemeral conquests on the Illyrian coast (end of 1149).

The two years' war between Norman and Greek exhausted both sides; it might have been expected that Manuel, free from the embarrassments of the Crusade, would have now delivered a counter-stroke upon Sicily. But the Venetians failed him; their half-heartedness as allies had probably prolonged the siege of Corfu, in the midst of which (1148) they had drawn themselves up on one occasion for battle against the Greeks, mocking at their allies on account of their dark faces, and boasting of the gold hair and white skins of their own women.²

Thus Roger's great design on the Greek Empire failed as completely as Guiscard's over fifty years before. In the East, also, Antioch remained in the hands of Raymond, whose son by Constance, Bohemund III., succeeded him finally in the county, Louis, indeed, had shown a favourable attitude, but he had passed away as the most tin official of allies. Yet a negative triumph rewarded Roger's efforts. The Crusade had di-

verted Conrad from a descent upon
the Norman
kingdom; the attack on the Eastern
Empire in

* "A man averse from bloodshed and to
whom the Romans were
dear," Nicetas, *op. cit.* p. 117.
* *Ibid.*, p. 114.